

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /031 W

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R 250640Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7655

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2496

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH TOLD ME APRIL 25 THAT AFGHAN AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR WOULD BE RETURNING TO KABUL FOR CONSULTATIONS AFTER THE SPECIAL UNGA AND AFTER DELIVERING TO PRESIDENT NIXON A LETTTER FROM PRESIDENT DAOUD. DAOUD'S LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO HIM WHICH I DELIVERED WHEN I PRESENTED CREDENTIALS LAST NOVEMBER 21.

2. COMMENT: I HOPE THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO SEE MALIKYAR EVEN IF FOR ONLY FIVE MINUTES TO RECEIVE DAOUD'S LETTER. SINCE DAOUD TOOK POWER LAST JULY, HIS GOVERNMENT HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT. NOT ONLY DOES ABDULLAH'S INABILITY LAST OCTOBER TO SEE EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY TO DELIVER DAOUD'S MESSAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST STILL RANKLE, BUT DAOUD HIMSELF STILL HARBORS SUSPICIONS ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM, DATING BACK TO OUR DISTASTE FOR NONALIGNMENT WHEN HE WAS PRIME MINISTER IN THE 1950'S. AT THE SAME TIME, DAOUD HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR THE PRESIDENT AND WARM MEMORIES OF HIS MEETINGS WITH VICE PRESIDENT NIXON IN KABUL AND IN WASHINGTON. I CAN THINK, THEREFORE, OF NO MORE USEFUL GESTURE WE COULD MAKE TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS SENSITIVE REGIME THAN TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY RECEIVE DAOUD'S MESSAGE. IN RECEIVING IT, I
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RECOMMEND THE PRESIDENT SAY A FEW WORDS CONCERNING HIS

FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR DAOUD PERSONALLY AND OUR RESPECT
FOR AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE, NON-ALIGNMENT AND EFFORTS
TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF ITS PEOPLE.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL02496
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740101-0338
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740415/aaaaamvg.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON
TAGS: PFOR, AF, US, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005